

REMARKS

Claims 1 - 11 are in the application.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claim 8 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, are respectfully requested.

As a result of the foregoing amendment, claim 8 has been amended to make it clear that the closeable line of the production chambers is in communication with ambient air.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1 to 11 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Willingham in view of Kim, are also respectfully requested.

Applicant respectfully submits that the references relied on by the Examiner do not disclose or suggest a device for surface-treating, coating or producing construction elements in a continuous process, as set forth in the claims of the present application.

The reference to Willingham is directed to an industrialized building construction using prefabricated, elongated T-shaped structural elements or Tees which are arranged to form a building.

For this purpose, the Tees are placed vertically on top of each other and laterally next to each other, so that the webs of the Tees form the side walls of cells and the flanges of the Tees form floors and ceilings of the building. In addition, the building includes modified Tees or half Tees which are arranged vertically and horizontally next to each other in order to form vertically directed corridors and elevator shafts. An elevator tower is provided by using a pair of modified Tees whose webs form a vertical shaft.

The Tees are welded together and/or assembled by using tensioning devices. The Tees make it possible to construct a variety of buildings which are suitable as apartments buildings or for business purposes.

The reference does not disclose or suggest an arrangement of Tees which would be suitable for surface-treating, coating or producing construction elements in a continuous process as claimed in claim 1 of the present application.

The reference to Kim is directed to structural elements having an elongated hollow metal shell which is filled with concrete. Inserted at the end of the hollow metal shell are end components which have the purpose to prevent damage to the metal shell during

the injection of concrete and to prevent damage to the ends of the shaped concrete components during transport and assembly.

It is respectfully submitted that even a combination of the references to Willingham and Kim does not result in the device according to the present invention as claimed.

Thus, the reference to Willingham does not disclose or suggest a device for surface-treating, coating or producing construction elements, particularly flat construction elements of glass, in a continuing process, as claimed in the present application.

The cells according to the reference of Willingham are not intended as production chambers which are each formed by a stationary chamber part and a chamber part which is detachable from the stationary chamber part and which are connected to a vacuum source.

Neither the reference to Willingham nor the reference to Kim discloses a metal wall which would define a production chamber.

Moreover, both references do not disclose or suggest chamber parts whose edge areas are provided with oppositely located ceiling surfaces.

Also, the two references do not disclose or suggest providing walls of a cavity of a production chamber manufactured of a metal skin which is anchored in the chamber parts which are composed of reinforced concrete.

Accordingly, it is clear that the references relied on by the Examiner do not disclose or suggest the features of claim 1 of the present application,

In addition, the references are directed to the fabrication structural components and not to a device for manufacturing structural elements, as is the case in the present application.

Therefore, in view of the foregoing, it is submitted that this application is now in condition for allowance and such allowance is respectfully solicited.

Any additional fees or charges required at this time in connection with the application may be charged to Patent and Trademark Office Deposit Account No. 11-1835.

Respectfully submitted,

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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, on May 14, 2003.

By: *F. K.*
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Date: May 14, 2003

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